

**Remarks at the Human Rights Council Special Session on the Situation in Ukraine
by Mark Cassayre, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) Permanent
Observer to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
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Thank you, Mr. President.

The International Development Law Organization remains deeply concerned by the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The human displacement and suffering, the global impact on food security, and the risks of broader instability have been devastating. This conflict poses a significant threat to the rule of the law and the international system.

As the only global, intergovernmental organization devoted to promoting the rule of law to advance peace and sustainable development, IDLO emphasizes the urgent need for the full respect of international law, as well as the norms and standards that characterize the commitments States make as members of the United Nations and the multilateral system. The United Nations Charter applies to all nations.

At every level, it is critical that we invest in the rule of law. That means investing financially, substantively, and through a steadfast commitment to the principles it entails, such as inclusive governance, equal access to justice, legal empowerment, and compliance with international human rights standards. The rule of law is a cornerstone of peace and development.

Over many years, IDLO has worked with Ukrainian justice institutions to assist the government and people of Ukraine in their efforts to strengthen judicial capacity, improve integrity, and bolster the rule of law. Even in the face of this devastating conflict, the Ukrainian Government has made clear its continued commitment to working with IDLO to ensure that its judicial mechanisms can deliver justice. Such tangible investments in the rule of law are more important now than ever. IDLO is pleased to continue its longstanding partnership with Ukraine. We welcome broad partnerships to support rule of law engagements in Ukraine and globally in order to promote lasting peace and sustainable development.

Thank you.